

Devon Tree Projects

Update from Devon County Council

March 2020

- Devon County Council are looking at off-setting their carbon emissions from 2020/21 which will include investment in woodland establishment and creation/restoration of other habitats, depending on their potential for carbon storage.
- Devon County Council is also acquiring land for woodland creation to offset biodiversity loss arising from its own developments.

- Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum (DADRF) is promoting the replacement of any ash trees that are taken down due to ash dieback on a 3-2-1 policy (plant 3 new trees for any mature ash tree removed, plant 2 new trees for any non-mature trees and plant 1 new tree for any saplings removed).
- Devon County Council have signed up to this policy as have many other DADRF partners.

Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum (DADRF) was successful in its application for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Saving Devon's Treescapes project. The Devon Wildlife Trust are leading the project on behalf of the Forum. Key outcomes from the project will be:

- The planting of 250,000 trees outside of woodlands;
- This new planting to include a new 'Landmark Tree' in each Parish, 19,500 trees in 'fruit routes' and urban edges, 50 hectares of new copses and field corner planting, 20km of 'flagship hedgerow' and the 'tagging' of hedgerow trees;
- The establishment and ongoing running of three community tree nurseries, providing a future supply of trees for planting through the project and beyond.

The project will encourage communities to plant trees to combat landscape and ecological impacts of ash dieback. **Devon County Council** is a key match-funding partner and has pledged £50k /year over the next 5 years to this project. For more info, see news item on the DADRF website here: <https://www.devonashdieback.org.uk/>

Devon County Council has operated two free tree schemes over this winter's planting season via the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum website, one for landowners in association with the Woodland Trust (40 packs of 45 trees) and one for Devon parishes which has resulted in 31 parish councils collecting a landmark tree from Perrie Hale nursery. We received more applications than we had trees to give away, so will be passing on details of unsuccessful applicants to the Saving Devon's Treescapes project for schemes hopefully operating over the next planting season (1st Nov 2020 to 31st March 2021).

Devon's AONBs, including the Tamar Valley AONB, are signed up to the National AONB Colchester Declaration which will see at least 36,000 hectares of new woodland being established in AONBs across the UK, some of which will be in Devon.

There is much partnership activity throughout Devon around the theme of woodland creation:

- Various parties are engaged in mapping woodland constraints, sensitivities and opportunities, for example as part of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.
- A woodland creation workshop aimed at local authorities was delivered by the Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust on 27 February to achieve a better understanding of requirements, Woodland Carbon Code, funding opportunities, barriers and how to overcome these.
- Devon Wildlife Trust are leading on work to establish Nature Recovery Networks, including woodland expansion.
- Devon County Council Flood Risk management team has recently consulted on draft Natural Flood Management Guidance, including woodland creation.

The Devon Environment Group
team day in December planted 200 trees



The need for a joined up, consistent approach and co-ordination of all this has become clear. In particular to give clear guidance to landowners on:

the right tree in the right place, using the right establishment method, and with the right aftercare.